IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

SYLVIA BROWN-HOOD,)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.) No.	
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, an Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation,) Jury Demande)	d
Defendant.)	

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood by her attorneys, Favaro & Gorman, Ltd, and for her Complaint against the defendant, Loyola University of Chicago, states and alleges as follows:

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood (hereinafter "Brown-Hood"), is an individual residing in Calumet City, Cook County, Illinois.
- 2. Defendant, Loyola University of Chicago (hereinafter "Loyola") is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation with a principal place of business in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.
- At all relevant times hereto, Brown-Hood was employed by Loyola as an Office
 Assistant / Program Coordinator for Graduate School Outreach Services.
- 4. At all relevant times hereto, Loyola was an "employer" within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §2000(e) et seq..

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under the provisions of 42 U.C.S. \$2000(e) et seq., 28 U.S.C. §1981 and supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.

- 6. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(c).
- 7. Brown-Hood resides and worked and Loyola did business in this District, and the acts and transactions alleged herein occurred within this District.

PROCEDURAL POSTURE

- 8. On August 4, 2017, Brown-Hood filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. *See* charge of discrimination attached hereto and herewith as Exhibit "A" and made a part hereof.
- 9. On or about October 30, 2017, Brown-Hood received a Notice of Right to Sue. See Notice of Right to Sue is attached hereto as Exhibit "B' and made a part hereof.
- 10. Brown-Hood has filed said action within ninety (90) days of her receipt of the Notice of Right to Sue.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 11. Brown-Hood is an African-American female. In or around May. 2012,, Brown-Hood began her employment as a Program Coordinator for Graduate School Outreach Services.
- 12. At all times relevant hereto, Brown-Hood performed her job duties in a manner which met the reasonable expectations of Loyola.
- 13. In and around May 2015, Dean Samuel Attoh went on medical leave from his position as Dean of the Graduate School.
- 14. In and around July 2015, Dr. Patricia Mooney-Melvin ("Mooney-Melvin") became the Interim Dean for Loyola and Brown-Hood's superior.
- 15. In a staff meeting in and around February 24, 2016, Mooney-Melvin began making comments and remark in front of Brown-Hood regarding her African-American heritage,

Asians, Latinos and Caucasian she did not like. These comments and remarks included, but were not limited to, the following:

- a. Referred to African-American as "things";
- b. Referred to Asians as "creatures";
- c. Referred to Latinos as "creatures"; and
- d. Referred to Caucasians she did not like as "other humans".
- 16. After the staff meeting, Brown-Hood asked to speak to Mooney-Melvin.
- 17. Brown-Hood asked Mooney-Melvin when did she become a "thing".
- 18. Mooney-Melvin stated "Sylvia, I was not talking about you I was talking about those other people.
- 19. Brown-Hood complained to Mooney-Melvin that she was offended by what she had said in the staff meeting.
- 20. Mooney-Melvin stated "Come on Sylvia, I am comfortable speaking freely around you; are you saying I need to use a filter?" Brown-Hood stated yes and please do not repeat any of that in my hearing or in my presence.
- 21. On or about March 11, 2016, Brown-Hood told Gary Soltys ("Soltys") of Human Resources of Mooney-Melvin's comments in the staff meeting and comments made in the meeting thereafter with Brown-Hood.
- 22. On or about April 13, 2016, Brown-Hood contacted Soltys for an update and was told that he had not yet spoken to Mooney-Melvin, that he wanted to meet with Brown-Hood personally and suggested that before he would get involved Brown-Hood should try to work it out with Mooney-Melvin.

- 23. On or about May 18, 2016, Brown-Hood contacted Mooney-Melvin by email and requested that they talk about what had happened at the February staff meeting and that she required guidance and assistance with recent new assignments and responsibilities that Brown-Hood had been given in December of 2015.
- 24. Mooney-Melvin refused to discuss anything with Brown-Hood except for the current event, Orientation, even though Brown-Hood also required help with Graduation. At the end of the conversation, Mooney-Melvin stated that her "lack of a filter" would not allow her to talk to Brown-Hood.
- 25. On or about May 24, 2016, Brown-Hood contacted Soltys and advised him that Mooney-Melvin would not speak to her except for the current events.
- 26. On or about August 21, 2016, at a large orientation event, Mooney-Melvin made detailed staff introductions, except for Brown-Hood, who was referred to as a receptionist.
- 27. On or about August 24, 2016, Brown-Hood met with Soltys and informed him that that situation was not improving and asked how she should move forward. Soltys said he would speak to Mooney-Melvin again.
- 28. On or about December 14, 2016, Mooney-Melvin rescheduled Brown-Hood's employee evaluation to January 18, 2017 as Mooney-Melvin had invited Soltys to attend and he was not available.
- 29. On or about December 26, 2016, Brown-Hood received an email at her home from Mooney-Melvin stating her raise was to be 1%. In all prior 25 years of employment Brown-Hood's raise notifications had come from Human Resources and increases had been between 2.5% and 5%.

- 30. On or about January 18, 2017, Mooney-Melvin, Dean Jessica Horowitz ("Horowitz") and Brown-Hood met for Brown-Hood's evaluation.
 - 31. During this evaluation meeting Brown-Hood was demoted.
- 32. On or about January 18, 2017, Mooney-Melvin advised Brown-Hood that she was to do nothing more that answer the phone, sort the mail and order supplies.
- 33. On or about January 19, 2017, Brown-Hood contacted Solyts via email and advised him of the demotion and situation.
- 34. Solyts advised Brown-Hood that Mooney-Melvin was resigning from the position of Interim Dean and that she was returning to the History Department in July, 2017.
- 35. Solyts told Brown-Hood to sit tight because Mooney-Melvin would be gone in a few months.
- 36. On or about August 4, 2017, Brown-Hood filed a Complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a copy is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".
- 37. On or about October 30, 2017, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commsision, issued a Right to Sue, a copy attached as Exhibit "B".

COUNT I

(TITLE VII – RACE DISCRIMINATION)

- 38. Upon information and belief, other similarly-situated non-African-American employees were not subjected to the same terms and conditions of employment as Brown-Hood.
 - 39. The aforementioned actions violate Title VII, as amended.

40. As a result of Loyola Univsersity's conduct, Brown-Hood has suffered, and will continue to suffer damages, including, but not limited to, lost wages, emotional distress, humiliation, anguish and stress.

Wherefore, plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood, respectfully invokes the remedial powers of of this Court under Title VII, as amended, and prays for the following:

- a. Declare the actions complained of herein to be in violation of Title VII, as amended;
- b. Enter an Order enjoining and permanently restraining these violations of Title VII and its amendments;
- c. Loyola University's be ordered to compensate, reimburse and make Brown-Hood whole for any benefits Brown-Hood would have received had it not been for Loyola's illegal actions including, but not limited to, back pay and front pay;
- d. Order that Loyola University pay an award to compensate Brown-Hood for her pain, suffering and humiliation and distress caused by Loyola University's unlawful treatment in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. Brown-Hood be awarded the costs of this suit and reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, if any, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II

(TITLE VII – HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT / RACE)

- 41. Loyola University intentionally discriminated against Brown-Hood because of her race and created a hostile work environment for Brown-Hood sufficiently severe or pervasive enough to alter the terms and conditions of her employment.
 - 42. The aforementioned actions violate Title VII, as amended.

43. As a result of Loyola University's conduct, Brown-Hood has suffered, and will to continue suffer damages, including, but not limited to, lost wages, emotional distress, humiliation, anguish and stress.

Wherefore, plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood, respectfully invokes the remedial powers of of this Court under Title VII, as amended, and prays for the following:

- a. Declare the actions complained of herein to be in violation of Title VII, as amended;
- b. Enter an Order enjoining and permanently restraining these violations of Title VII and its amendments;
- c. Loyola University be ordered to compensate, reimburse and make Brown-Hood whole for any benefits Brown-Hood would have received had it not been for Loyola's illegal actions including, but not limited to, back pay and front pay;
- d. Order that Loyola pay an award to compensate Brown-Hood for her pain, suffering and humiliation and distress caused by Loyola University's unlawful treatment in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. Brown-Hood be awarded the costs of this suit and reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, if any, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT III

(TITLE VII, RACE DISCRIMINATION – PUNITIVE DAMAGES)

Brown-Hood restates and realleges as though fully set forth herein paragraphs 1 through all 37 above.

44. Loyola University and its agents and employees have willfully discriminated against Brown-Hood by subjecting her to derogatory comments, differences in the terms and conditions of her employment and by reducing her duties and failing to give appropriate pay increases.

Wherefore, plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood, respectfully invokes the remedial powers of

of this Court under Title VII, as amended, and prays for the following:

- a. Declare the actions complained of herein to be in violation of Title VII, as amended;
- b. Enter an Order enjoining and permanently restraining these violations of Title VII and its amendments;
- c. Loyola University be ordered to compensate, reimburse and make Brown-Hood whole for any benefits Brown-Hood would have received had it not been for Loyola University's illegal actions including, but not limited to, back pay and front pay;
- d. Order that Loyola University pay an award to compensate Brown-Hood for her pain, suffering and humiliation and distress caused by Loyola's unlawful treatment in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. Loyola University be ordered by pay Brown-Hood punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- f. Brown-Hood be awarded the costs of this suit and reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, if any, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT IV

(NATIONAL ORIGIN DISCRIMINATION)

- 45. Upon information and belief, other similarly-situated employees not of African-American origin were not subjected to the same terms and conditions of employment as Brown-Hood.
 - 46. The aforementioned actions violate Title VII, as amended.
- 47. As a result of Loyola University's conduct, Brown-Hood has suffered, and will continue to suffer damages, including, but not limited to, lost wages, emotional distress, humiliation, anguish and stress.

Wherefore, plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood, respectfully invokes the remedial powers of of this Court under Title VII, as amended, and prays for the following:

- a. Declare the actions complained of herein to be in violation of Title VII, as amended;
- b. Enter an Order enjoining and permanently restraining these violations of Title VII and its amendments;
- c. Loyola University be ordered to compensate, reimburse and make Brown-Hood whole for any benefits Brown-Hood would have received had it not been for Loyola University's illegal actions including, but not limited to, back pay and front pay;
- d. Order that Loyola University pay an award to compensate Brown-Hood for her pain, suffering and humiliation and distress caused by Loyola University's unlawful treatment in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. Brown-Hood be awarded the costs of this suit and reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, if any, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT V

(HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT – NATIONAL ORIGIN)

- 48. Loyola University's intentionally discriminated against Brown-Hood because of her national origin and created a hostile work environment for Brown-Hood sufficiently severe or pervasive enough to alter the terms and conditions of her employment.
 - 49. The aforementioned actions violate Title VII, as amended.
- 50. As a result of Loyola University's conduct, Brown-Hood has suffered, and will continue to suffer damages, including, but not limited to, lost wages, emotional distress, humiliation, anguish and stress.

Wherefore, plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood, respectfully invokes the remedial powers of of this Court under Title VII, as amended, and prays for the following:

- a. Declare the actions complained of herein to be in violation of Title VII, as amended;
- b. Enter an Order enjoining and permanently restraining these violations of Title VII and its amendments;
- c. Loyola University be ordered to compensate, reimburse and make Brown-Hood whole for any benefits Brown-Hood would have received had it not been for Loyola University's illegal actions including, but not limited to, back pay and front pay;
- d. Order that Loyola University pay an award to compensate Brown-Hood for her pain, suffering and humiliation and distress caused by Loyola University's unlawful treatment in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. Brown-Hood be awarded the costs of this suit and reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, if any, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT VI

(NATIONAL ORIGIN DISCRIMINATION – PUNITIVE DAMAGES)

Brown-Hood restates and realleges as though fully set forth herein paragraphs 1 through 50 above.

51. Loyola and its agents and employees have willfully discriminated against Brown-Hood by subjecting her to derogatory comments, differences in the terms and conditions of her employment and by reducing her duties and failing to give appropriate pay increases.

Wherefore, plaintiff, Sylvia Brown Hood, respectfully invokes the remedial powers of of this Court under Title VII, as amended, and prays for the following:

- a. Declare the actions complained of herein to be in violation of Title VII, as amended;
- b. Enter an Order enjoining and permanently restraining these violations of Title VII and its amendments;

- c. Loyola be ordered to compensate, reimburse and make Brown-Hood whole for any benefits Brown-Hood would have received had it not been for Loyola's illegal actions including, but not limited to, back pay and front pay;
- d. Order that Loyola pay an award to compensate Brown-Hood for her pain, suffering and humiliation and distress caused by Loyola's unlawful treatment in an amount to be determined at trial:
- e. Loyola be ordered to pay Brown-Hood punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- f. Brown-Hood be awarded the costs of this suit and reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, if any, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT VII

(TITLE VII – RETALIATION)

Brown-Hood restates and realleges as though fully set forth herein paragraphs 1 through 51 above.

- 52. As noted above, Brown-Hood complained numerous times to Loyola about the derogatory comments made about her African-American ancestry as well as further complaining about being treated differently than her co-workers.
 - 53. These complaints were a protected activity under Title VII, as amended.
 - 54. Loyola responded by retaliating against Brown-Hood as outlined above.
 - 55. Said retaliation was in violation of Title VII, as amended.
- 56. As a result of Loyola's conduct, Brown-Hood has suffered, and will continue to suffer damages, including, but not limited to, lost wages, emotional distress, humiliation, anguish and stress.

Wherefore, plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood, respectfully invokes the remedial powers of of this Court under Title VII, as amended, and prays for the following:

a. Declare the actions complained of herein to be in violation of Title VII, as amended;

- b. Enter an Order enjoining and permanently restraining these violations of Title VII and its amendments;
- c. Loyola be ordered to compensate, reimburse and make Brown-Hood whole for any benefits Brown-Hood would have received had it not been for Loyola's illegal actions including, but not limited to, back pay and front pay;
- d. Order that Loyola pay an award to compensate Brown-Hood for her pain, suffering and humiliation and distress caused by Loyola's unlawful treatment in an amount to be determined at trial;
- e. Loyola be ordered to pay Brown-Hood punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- f. Brown-Hood be awarded the costs of this suit and reasonable attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, if any, and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff, Sylvia Brown-Hood requests a trial by jury on all counts proper submissible to a jury.

/s Dennis R. Favaro____

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Andrew H. Haber ahaber@favarogorman.com
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EEOC Form 5 (11/09)	Case: 1:18-cy-00594 Document	#: 1 Filed: 01/20	6/18 Page 13 of 15	S PageID #:13 \$ 0 828-02	
This form is	HARGE OF DISCRIMINATION affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Priment and other information before completing this form	vacy Act	arge Presented To: FEPA X EEOC	Agency(ies) Charge No(s) 9018000 976 440-2017-04574	
	Illinois Depar	tment Of Human		and EEOC	
Name (indicate Mr., Ms.		or local Agency, if any	Home Phone (Incl. Area		
Ms. Sylvia V. E	17.75		(773) 960-13		
Street Address 494 164th Stree	et, Calumet City, IL 60409	City, State and ZIP Code			
Named is the Employ Discriminated Against	er, Labor Organization, Employment Agency, Ap Me or Others. (If more than two, list under PAR	prenticeship Committee RTICULARS below.)	or State or Local Governme	ent Agency That I Believe	
Name	- DOITV		No Employees Members	Phone No. (Include Area Code	
LOYOLA UNIVI	ERSITY	City, State and ZIP Code	500 or More	(773) 508-3143	
6439 N. Sherida	an Road, Chicago, IL 60626		No Employees, Members	Phone No (Include Area Code	
Street Address		City, State and ZIP Code	74.	Sarg	
DISCRIMINATION BASE	O ON (Check appropriate box(es))		DATE(S) DISCR	RIMINATION TOOK PLACE	
X RACE X RETALIAT	COLOR SEX RELIGIO	NATIONAL O	RIGIN Earliest	Latest 08-04-2017	
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ill advise the agencies i poperate fully with them	th both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if I change my address or phone number and I will in the processing of my charge in accordance with	7 - 15	en necessary for State and Loca	al Agency Requirements	
rocedures	of perjury that the above is true and correct.	I swear or affi the best of my	I swear or affirm that I have read the above charge and that it is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT		
		SIGNATURE O	F COMPLAINANT		

Case: 1:18-cv-00594 Document #: 1 Filed: 01/26/18 Page 14 of 15 PageID #:14

FFOC Form 161 (11/16

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

ELOO TOM TOTAL		DISMISSAL AND	NOTICE OF	_ Rights	
494 16	V. Brown-Hood 4th Street et City, IL 60409		From:	Chicago District Office 500 West Madison St Suite 2000 Chicago, IL 60661	
		person(s) aggrieved whose identity TIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))	is		
EEOC Charge		EEOC Representative			Telephone No.
		Zachary M. Florent,			(312) 869-8040
440-2017-0		Investigator			(012) 000 0040
THE EEOC	IS CLOSING ITS F	ILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR	THE FOLLO	WING REASON:	20
	The facts alleged in the	ne charge fail to state a claim un	der any of the s	statutes enforced by the EEC	JC.
	Your allegations did n	ot involve a disability as defined	by the Americ	ans With Disabilities Act.	
	The Respondent emp	loys less than the required num	ber of employe	es or is not otherwise covere	ed by the statutes.
	discrimination to file y	ot timely filed with EEOC; in cour charge			
X		ne following determination: Bas establishes violations of the sta ng is made as to any other issue	tutae Inis ani	es noi centry mai the respon	Ident is in compliance inter-
	The EEOC has adopt	ted the findings of the state or lo	cal fair employ	ment practices agency that i	nvestigated this charge.
	Other (briefly state)				
		- NOTICE OF (See the additional infon	SUIT RIGH	ITS - to this form.)	
Discrimina You may file	tion in Employmen e a lawsuit against tl st be filed WITHIN 9	Disabilities Act, the Genetic It Act: This will be the only notice the respondent(s) under feden ODDAYS of your receipt of the based on a claim under state	ofice of distri- ral law based this notice;	on this charge in federal or your right to so on this charge in federal or your right to sue based	or state court. Your
alleged EPA	Act (EPA): EPA sui A underpayment. Th file suit may not be	ts must be filed in federal or s is means that backpay due f e collectible.	state court with for any violat	hin 2 years (3 years for wi ions that occurred <u>more</u>	llful violations) of the than 2 years (3 years)
		On be	half of the Con	nmission Da)man	10/30/17
Enclosures(s)	17	ne Bowman, ict Director	A THE COLUMN TO	(Date Mailed)
cc:					

Katherine Kenny LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO 820 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 715 Chicago, IL 60611

EXHIBIT

CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION	Charge	Presented To:	Agency(ies) Charge No(s):	
This form is affected by the Privacy Act of 1974. See enclosed Privacy Act		FEPA		
Statement and other imformation before completing this form.	X	EEOC	440-2017-04574	
Illinois Department 0	Of Human Ri	ghts	and EEOC	
State or local Ago	ency, if any			
Name (indicate Mr., Ms., Mrs.)		Home Phone (Incl. Area		
Ms. Sylvia V. Brown-Hood		(773) 960-139	1972	
494 164th Street, Calumet City, IL 60409	e and ZIP Code			
Named is the Employer, Labor Organization, Employment Agency, Apprenticesl Discriminated Against Me or Others. (If more than two, list under PARTICULAR	hip Committee, or \$	State or Local Governme	nt Agency That I Believe	
Name		No. Employees, Members	Phone No. (Include Area Code)	
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY		500 or More	(773) 508-3143	
	e and ZIP Code	l	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
6439 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626				
Name		No. Employees, Members	Phone No. (Include Area Code, AUG 0 201)	
Street Address City, State	e and ZIP Code		~ 2017 O 19	
DISCRIMINATION BASED ON (Check appropriate box(es).) X RACE COLOR SEX RELIGION X RETALIATION AGE DISABILITY G OTHER (Specify)	NATIONAL ORIG	Earliest ON	O8-04-2017	
I was hired by Respondent in or around August 1992 my employment, I have been subjected to racial hara Subsequently, I have been subjected to different term not limited to, having my job duties removed, receiving performance evaluation. I believe that I have been discriminated against becatengaging in protected activity, in violation of Title VII	issment. I col ns and condi ing a lesser ra use of my rad	mplained to Resp tions of employn aise, and receivir ce, Black, and in	nent, including, but ng a poor	
I want this charge filed with both the EEOC and the State or local Agency, if any. I will advise the agencies if I change my address or phone number and I will cooperate fully with them in the processing of my charge in accordance with their	NOTARY - When	necessary for State and Loc	cal Agency Requirements	
procedures. I declare under penalty of perjury that the above is true and correct.	I swear or affirm the best of my I SIGNATURE OF	(nowledge, information a	ove charge and that it is true to nd belief.	
Aug 04, 2017 Sylui Bru-Hood Charging Party Signature	SUBSCRIBED At (month, day, year	ND SWORN TO BEFORE M)	E THIS DATE	